

shown by our Chairs, Senator LANDRIEU and Senator CRAIG. Thanks to their leadership and the importance of public awareness, this event has grown into a true celebration and recognition of the individuals who have earned their award, as an Angel of Adoption.

This year, I am delighted to honor Chris Wood, executive director of Mission West Virginia, a faith-based organization in my State. Chris and his group have undertaken the initiative known as One Church, One Child. This program which has branches in about 30 States was started in my State in December 2001, thanks to the leadership of Chris Wood and Mission West Virginia. Its goal is to raise awareness and interest in adoptions from foster care throughout the community, but particularly focusing on faith communities. Since its inception, hundreds of West Virginians have inquired about potential adoptions. About 40 adults have been registered and certified as foster and/or adoptive parents. But the best news is that 25 children have been adopted into safe, permanent homes. Others are still in the process. This is real progress, and it is changing the lives of children and families.

This is a remarkable program. I am also pleased to note that my West Virginia colleague has nominated Drew Ornbaum as her Angel in Adoption. Drew is a teenager who was adopted from foster care, and he has become a compassionate spokesperson for this initiative and its vital goal—a safe, permanent home for every child.

Chris Wood, executive director of Mission West Virginia, is doing important work on behalf of children and families through the One Church, One Child program.●

RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL REGINALD CENTRACCHIO, U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of MG Reginald Centracchio, the Adjutant General of the State of Rhode Island and the commanding general of the Rhode Island National Guard. Major General Centracchio retired on September 1, 2005, after 48 years in the Rhode Island Army National Guard. He is the only adjutant general from Rhode Island to serve his entire career within the Rhode Island National Guard, rising from private to the position of adjutant general.

Major General Centracchio enlisted as a private in the National Guard in September 1957. He graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1962, and was commissioned a second lieutenant, Air Defense Artillery.

Over the past four decades, Major General Centracchio held a wide variety of important command and staff positions, including platoon leader and battery commander on various missile sites throughout Rhode Island; field ar-

tillery tactical intelligence staff officer and adjutant; recruiting and retention manager; plans, operations and military support officer; director of personnel and administration; and director of plans, operations and training, Rhode Island Army National Guard.

Major General Centracchio was appointed the Adjutant General, State of Rhode Island, and Commanding General, Rhode Island National Guard, by Gov. Lincoln Almond on August 1, 1995. On August 1, 2002, he achieved the State rank of lieutenant general. On July 1, 1996, he was appointed director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, RIEMA, merging the National Guard and Emergency Management Agency. On January 21, 2003, he was reappointed by Gov. Donald L. Carcieri as the Adjutant General of Rhode Island; he was then appointed Rhode Island Homeland Security Advisor. Major General Centracchio is the first adjutant general to hold all three positions simultaneously.

During his tenure as Adjutant General and Commanding General of the Rhode Island National Guard, Major General Centracchio's leadership and commitment were essential in ensuring the Rhode Island National Guard trained, equipped, and deployed soldiers and airmen in support of United States military missions at home and abroad. His experience and knowledge were constantly sought during numerous State emergencies in which Rhode Island National Guard troops were employed to ensure public safety. Under his direct supervision, the Rhode Island National Guard mobilized and deployed over 3,500 troops in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. This represents the largest deployment of Rhode Island National Guard Troops since the First World War.

General Centracchio exemplifies what it means to be a "soldier." He was utterly committed to accomplishing his mission and completely dedicated to the welfare of his troops. He led by example. His service and sacrifice sustained the men and women of the Rhode Island National Guard and will continue to inspire them in the years ahead.

I also want to commend his wife, Linda. She also served by his side to provide for the men and women of the Rhode Island National Guard. Together they made an extraordinary contribution to our Nation and to Rhode Island.

Major General Centracchio's superb sense of duty and responsibility provided the citizens of Rhode Island with solid evidence of the National Guard's commitment to the State and Nation. On behalf of the residents of Rhode Island, I thank Major General Centracchio for a lifetime of selfless service. I wish him well and salute him with the title that he has earned and honored. "Sir, you are a soldier."●

NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, on behalf of my fellow New Mexicans, I recognize the outstanding achievements of the New Mexico Junior College baseball team and applaud their remarkable world series victory.

New Mexico Junior College, an institution with over 3,000 students, is located in Hobbs, NM. This southeastern New Mexico town is known for its abundant natural resources, agriculture, attractive yearlong weather, and small town charm. Hobbs has long been known as the hub of New Mexico's oil industry, and home to the world's gliding community. Now, Hobbs is the home of the No. 1 junior college baseball team in America.

The Thunderbird baseball team has a distinguished local and national reputation for excellence. More than 85 New Mexico Junior College players have been drafted by professional teams, and two of those recently won Major League Baseball championships with the Florida Marlins and Anaheim Angels. However, this is the first national championship in the school's storied baseball history.

The 2005 season added to the list of accolades for the New Mexico Junior College Thunderbirds. The team finished the season winning 55 out of 65 games, and outscored their opponents 44 to 19 during their championship run. Head coach Ray Birmingham won his 700th game along the way and received the award for NJCAA coach of the year. The team finished with the highest batting average in the country. Seven Thunderbirds, from a variety of positions, received all-conference honors.

Besides being great athletes, the Thunderbirds continue to show remarkable character off the field. Four players earned Academic All-American honors this season, highlighting the high academic standards of the program. I have always believed that the ability to shine on and off the playing field is a truly crowning achievement.

This New Mexico Junior College baseball team demonstrated remarkable teamwork and selflessness throughout the season. Players born in New Mexico, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Australia, Canada, and across the United States came together to realize their dreams this season. For that, and for all their accomplishments, I commend each and every player and coach of the Thunderbird team here in this RECORD. May their success be only a prelude to future accomplishments, and may they continue to represent their school, Hobbs, and the State of New Mexico with distinction.●

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM H. (HARRY) ARMSTRONG

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Mr. William H. (Harry) Armstrong on receiving the 2005 Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award. The Rose Ann Vuich Leadership Award, sponsored by the Kenneth L.